

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A water-soluble cationic copolymer or terpolymer composition obtained by continuous polymerization of acrylamide and at least one unsaturated cationic monomer selected from the group consisting of quaternized dialkylaminoalkyl (meth)acrylates and quaternized dialkylaminoalkyl (meth)acrylamides at least one unsaturated monomer,

wherein said polymerization is effected on a moving support with a predetermined residence time, and

wherein during said polymerization the metering rate of the acrylamide or the at least one unsaturated cationic monomer at least one parameter biasing the polymerization is varied in the feed of ~~said monomer~~ to the moving support in a continuous fashion according to an oscillation about a mean value, wherein oscillation is effected by steadily increasing and steadily decreasing back the metering rate over a time period of about 45 to about 60 minutes at a frequency that is in the same order of magnitude as the residence time.

22. (Currently Amended) The water-soluble cationic copolymer or terpolymer composition according to Claim 21, ~~which is a water-soluble co-polymer or terpolymer composition, and~~

wherein the residence time is within the range of from about 40 to about 45 minutes; ~~and wherein the frequency is within the range of from 45 to 60 minutes.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The water-soluble cationic copolymer or terpolymer composition according to Claim 21, wherein said polymerization is a photopolymerization.

24. (Currently Amended) The water-soluble cationic copolymer or terpolymer composition according to Claim 21, wherein the oscillation is harmonic.

25. (Currently Amended) The water-soluble cationic copolymer or terpolymer composition according to Claim 21, wherein additionally at least one of the following parameters is subject to variation:

- a concentration of ~~at least one~~ a monomer,
- an amount of a catalyst,
- an amount of a molecular weight modifier,
- ~~a pH value of a monomer solution, or~~
- a composition of said monomer solution.

26-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) The water-soluble cationic copolymer or terpolymer composition according to Claim 21, wherein the composition is in a powdered form.

29. (Currently Amended) The water-soluble cationic copolymer or terpolymer composition according to Claim 24, wherein the oscillation is undamped.

30. (Withdrawn) A process for treating a suspension, comprising:

adding the water-soluble polymer composition claimed in Claim 21 to said suspension, wherein said water-soluble polymer composition flocculates or dewateres said suspension.

31. (Withdrawn) A method of dewatering sewage, comprising:

adding the water-soluble polymer composition according to Claim 21 to said sewage, to remove solids from said sewage at a substantially constant filtrate clarity.

32-40. (Canceled)

41. (New) The water-soluble cationic copolymer or terpolymer composition according to Claim 21, wherein the quaternized dialkylaminoalkyl (meth)acrylate is dimethylaminoethyl acrylate quaternized with methyl chloride and/or the quaternized dialkylaminoalkyl (meth)acrylamide is dimethylamino propyl acrylamide quaternized with methyl chloride.

42. (New) A process for the preparation of a water-soluble cationic copolymer or terpolymer composition, comprising continuously polymerizing acrylamide and at least one unsaturated cationic monomer selected from the group consisting of quaternized dialkylaminoalkyl (meth)acrylates and quaternized dialkylaminoalkyl (meth)acrylamides,

wherein said polymerization is effected on a moving support with a predetermined residence time, and

wherein during said polymerization the metering rate of the acrylamide or the at least one unsaturated cationic monomer is varied in the feed to the moving support in a continuous fashion according to an oscillation about a mean value,

wherein the oscillation is effected by steadily increasing and steadily decreasing back the metering rate over a time period of about 45 to about 60 minutes.

43. (New) The process according to Claim 42, wherein the residence time is within the range of from about 40 to about 45 minutes.

44. (New) The process according to Claim 42, wherein said polymerization is a photopolymerization.

45. (New) The process according to Claim 42, wherein the oscillation is harmonic.

46. (New) The process according to Claim 42, wherein additionally at least one of the following parameters is subject to variation:

- a concentration of a monomer,
- an amount of a catalyst,
- an amount of a molecular weight modifier, or
- a composition of said monomer solution.

47. (New) The process according to Claim 42, wherein the quaternized dialkylaminoalkyl (meth)acrylate is dimethylaminoethyl acrylate quaternized with methyl chloride and/or the quaternized dialkylaminoalkyl (meth)acrylamide is dimethylamino propyl acrylamide quaternized with methyl chloride.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 26, 27 and 32-40 have been canceled.

The remaining claims have been amended as supported by the claims and specification as originally filed, for example, at page 3, 2nd paragraph.

New Claims 41-47 have been added as supported by Claims 22, 26 and 27 as originally filed and by the Examples of the specification.

No new matter is believed to have been added by entry of this amendment. Entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 21-25, 28-31, 41-47 will now be active in this application.